

## Message Text

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73

ORIGIN NEA-12

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S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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P 282034Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL

EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING

NOVEMBER 28, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. THERE ARE STORIES OUT OF ATHENS TODAY SAYING  
THAT NO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE ANY OF THE  
NEW MEMBERS OF THE NEW GREEK JUNTA. I AM WONDERING -- CAN  
YOU TELL US WHAT THE SITUATION IS? ARE WE IN CONTACT WITH  
THESE PEOPLE?

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A. WELL, I AM AWARE OF THOSE STORIES, AND I THINK ALL I CAN

REALLY SAY ABOUT GREECE AT THIS EXTRAORDINARILY EARLY PERIOD, AND QUITE TRANSITORY SITUATION, WHEN A NEW GROUP IS TAKING CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT, IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OCCASION, SO FAR, IN THIS EARLY PERIOD FOR CONTACTS BETWEEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND OUR OWN AUTHORITIES, AND AS FAR AS I KNOW IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR HOW EXTENSIVELY THEY HAVE UNDERTAKEN CONTACTS WITH ANY REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NATIONS. AND I THINK PERHAPS IT IS PREMATURE TO TRY TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS AT ALL FROM THAT.

Q. ONE OF THE STORIES SAID THAT TWO OF OUR DIPLOMATS ACTUALLY WERE TURNED AWAY. I AM WONDERING IF YOU CAN CONFIRM THAT OR NOT.

A. NO, I CAN'T. I WILL LOOK INTO THAT. BUT I CAN'T CONFIRM THAT. BUT IF THERE HAVE BEEN, I FEEL IT REASONABLE TO SAY THIS MUCH, ANY REAL PROBLEMS ABOUT INITIAL EXCHANGES WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN ATHENS, I AM SURE I WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT.

Q. ALSO IN REFERENCE TO GREECE, THE STATEMENT THE OTHER DAY WAS THAT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO CARRY OUT ON THE SECOND STAGE OF THE HOMEPORTING. IS IT ALSO YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO HAVE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SECOND PHASE OF HOME PORTING?

A. WE HAVE HAD AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THERE WILL BE CERTAINLY OTHER DISCUSSIONS. NOW, HOW YOU CHARACTERIZE THOSE DISCUSSIONS, I COULDN'T SAY. BUT IT IS NORMAL WHEN YOU HAVE AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO WORK OUT DETAILS, YOU HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

Q. REGARDING U.S. AND GREEK ASSOCIATION WE ARE SPEAKING OF AT WHAT LEVEL OF CONTACT?

A. LET ME MAKE CLEAR WHAT IS INVOLVED BY THE TERM "CONTACT". WHEN YOU WORK IN AN EMBASSY, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU EVERY DAY HAVE PHYSICAL CONTACT, PHYSICAL EXCHANGES. IN THIS EARLY STAGE, AS I MENTIONED, THERE HAS BEEN NO PARTICULAR REASON WHY WE HAVE HAD TO RUSH TO DO SOMETHING.

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AND WHEN I SAY WE ARE CONTINUING DAY-TO-DAY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS, WE ARE OPERATING IN ATHENS AS AN EMBASSY WOULD NORMALLY OPERATE, AND UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY KIND TO LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THAT DOES NOT ACCURATELY CHARACTERIZE THE SITUATION OF THAT EMBASSY. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT IN THE FIRST VERY HECTIC DAYS OF A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT THAT THOSE NEW OFFICIALS ARE GOING TO HAVE TIME TO TALK TO ONE OR ANOTHER EMBASSY.

THEY MAY NOT. BUT THEY COME TO THAT IN DUE COURSE. AND  
THE COURSE HAS NOT ARRIVED AS YET. BUT I THINK IT WOULD  
BE VERY WRONG TO READ INTO THAT THERE IS ANYTHING OTHER  
THAN A CONTINUING DAY-TO-DAY WORKING RELATIONSHIP AS WE  
HAVE DESCRIBED IT. THAT IS THE WAY WE FEEL THE SITUATION  
CAN BE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED.

Q. WOULD THIS COVER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP AS WELL,  
INASMUCH AS A NUMBER OF THE GENERALS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN  
PURGED IN THE COUP?

A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE ANYTHING OTHER  
THAN JUST WHAT I HAVE SAID SO FAR. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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